

RemarksAbstract

An abstract has been added to overcome the objection.

Drawings

Formal drawings have been submitted to overcome the objections.

Specification Rejection

Examiner objects to lack of specification support for claims 15-17. Applicant respectfully directs Examiner to page 5, fourth full paragraph, wherein the specification states a flowchart for an algorithm that is implemented in software. Thus, claims 15-17 are directed to a software implementation that instructs a computer to perform the listed functions.

Claim Rejection

Applicant respectfully disagrees with Examiner's reasoning for claims 5 and 8. The cited art's arbitration relies on timing information to determine the "oldest" bus with respect to time. In contrast, the Applicant's arbitration depends on a losing bidder's range of accumulator values that do NOT depend on timing status, but depend on the accumulator's standing within a range based at least in part on the initial user-defined weight value and/or priority.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance for the pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (503) 439-8778. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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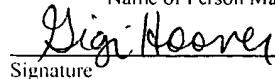
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on:

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